

Adopted: April 24, 1944

File No. 4742-43

REPORT OF THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD  
on the  
Investigation of an Accident Involving Aircraft  
During a Cross-Country Business Flight

An accident which occurred at Seagraves, Texas, about 4:30 p.m. on November 1, 1943, resulted in serious injuries to the pilot, Elwood Pete Tiernan, and minor injuries to his passenger, Luke Huckabee. Tiernan held a private pilot certificate with a single-engine land, 0-80 h.p. rating and had flown approximately 139 solo hours, 24 of which were in the type airplane involved. Huckabee, a non-revenue passenger, was not certificated as an airman. The aircraft, an Aeronca 65CA, NC 31962, owned by Brownfield Flying Club 2, was extensively damaged.

Tiernan, accompanied by Huckabee, took off into a northeast wind of 8 m.p.h. on a cross-country flight to Brownfield, Texas. According to observers the plane was climbed sharply immediately after leaving the ground. When an altitude of approximately 100 feet had been reached, the pilot entered an abrupt climbing turn to the left, which almost reversed the plane's heading, and from a partially stalled and steeply banked position the aircraft nosed down and crashed on the nose, left wing tip, and left side of the landing gear.

Examination of the wreckage revealed no evidence of failure of any part of the aircraft prior to the accident and the manner in which the propeller was broken indicated that considerable power was being developed at the time of impact. Dual controls were connected.

The probable cause of this accident was a stall resulting from the pilot's poor judgment and technique in making a steep climbing turn at a dangerously low altitude.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred A. Toombs  
Secretary